Shinya Shokudou
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A Village Idiot Scanlation
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34th Night ◎ Butter Rice

AS I'M SURE EVERYONE KNOWS, MY "MIDNIGHT RESTAURANT" IS A PLACE THAT COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT STAR RATINGS AND THE LIKE.

N
G

OHO, THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE.

COME IN.

AND DESPITE KNOWING THAT, MURACCHAN BROUGHT ALONG ONE OF THOSE FOOD CRITICS WHO I SIMPLY DETEST.

IS THAT RIGHT?

THE ONE IN GINZA? IT'S NO GOOD. THEY MIGHT BOAST ABOUT THEIR "FRITES À LA VILLEROI*" OYSTERS, BUT THERE'S NO DEPTH TO THE SAUCE.

I... COULDN'T SAY, REALLY...

BY THE WAY, DO YOU LIKE CAVIAR?

T/N: OYSTERS WITH FRIES AND A VILLEROI SAUCE.

THERE'S THIS EXCLUSIVE PLACE THAT'S A REGULAR HAUNT OF MINE. NEXT TIME, WE'LL GO THERE AND YOU CAN TRY SOME BLINI.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE COULD JUST DRINK SOME SPLENDID CHAMPAGNE INSTEAD, HAHAHAHA.

...GOROU-SAN CAME IN.

HEYA.

THE OTHER CUSTOMERS BECAME DISGRUNTLED, AND JUST AS AN UNPLEASANT MOOD WAS ABOUT TO DEVELOP...

MY PLEASURE.

WELCOME.

GOROU-SAN IS ONE OF A DYING BREED. HE IS A NAGASHI* OF SHINJUKU.

SFX: SNAP

THANKS, AS ALWAYS.

HERE, BUTTER RICE AND A SMALL TONJIRU.

T/N: A NAGASHI IS A MUSICIAN WHO WANDERS AROUND WATERING HOLES, PROVIDING MUSIC TO ACCOMPANY THE SINGING OF OTHERS OR PERFORMING SONGS THEMSELVES. THEY OFTEN HAD A WIDE REPERTOIRE CROSSING VARIOUS GENRES, BUT AS THEIR PATRONS WERE TYPICALLY OLDER, NOSTALGIC MUSIC LIKE ENKA OR FOLKSONGS MADE UP A LOT OF IT. ONCE POPULAR, THEY HAVE BEEN IN DECLINE SINCE THE RISE OF KARAOKE IN THE 70S, AND WHERE ONCE THERE WERE 100 NAGASHI IN SHINJUKU (A MECCA FOR NAGASHI), THERE WERE ONLY 2 ACTIVE NAGASHI LEFT IN 1998.

HE'D THEN ADD SOME SOY SAUCE AND GENTLY STIR.

GOROU'S HABIT WAS TO LET THE RICE STEAM THE BUTTER FOR 30 SECONDS, MELTING IT.

!

GIMME A BUTTER RICE!

...

BUTTER RICE FOR ME AS WELL.

AH, HERE IT COMES!

RATHER THAN RECEIVING MONEY FROM GOROU-SAN AS PAYMENT, I'D RECEIVE A SINGLE SONG INSTEAD.

THE SONG WAS ALWAYS "HAKODATE WOMAN*".

I CAME FROM FAR AWAY~ AND AS I CROSS THE SURGING WAVES TO HAKODATE~

T/N: HAKODATE NO HITO (函館の女): READ AS "PERSON OF HAKODATE", BUT MEANING "WOMAN OF HAKODATE", AN ENKA SONG BY KITAJIMA SABUROU.

AND I REMEMBER SEEING~

YOUR BACK AS YOU CRIED~

I TELL MYSELF THAT NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND YOU~

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AND I JUST CAN'T HELP~
BUT WANT TO SEE YOU~

MASTER, DID IT ANNOY YOU WHEN I BROUGHT THE FOOD CRITIC TOYAMA MASAO HERE YESTERDAY?

THE NEXT DAY...

BUT IT SURE WAS STRANGE THAT HE ALSO WENT FOR BUTTER RICE!

KINDA.

!

RIGHT!? HE'D ACTUALLY ASKED ME TO INTRODUCE HIM TO SOMETHING TRULY TASTY.

SFX: CLATTER

BUTTER RICE.

YOU CAN ALWAYS EAT SOMETHING LIKE BUTTER RICE AT HOME, RIGHT?

GOROU-SAN, YOU MEAN? HE ONLY COMES ONCE A WEEK, ON THURSDAYS.

WELL, MY WIFE GREW UP ABROAD, SO I ONLY REALLY GET TO EAT BREAD AT HOME... INCIDENTALLY, I WONDER IF THAT NAGASHI OJI-SAN WILL COME TONIGHT.

HMM...

I DOUBT IT... I THINK HE WORKS AT A FACTORY SOMEWHERE DURING THE DAY.

DOES HE MAKE HIS LIVING AS A NAGASHI?

AFTER THAT, TOYAMA-SAN CAME BY EVERY THURSDAY, BUT GOROU-SAN SUDDENLY STOPPED COMING. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THREE MONTHS HAD PASSED THAT HE FINALLY CAME AGAIN...

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT ALL THE WHILE, BUT I'M GOING TO RETIRE AS A NAGASHI.

I CAN'T PLAY A GUITAR ANYMORE... MY LEFT HAND GOT CAUGHT IN SOME MACHINERY...

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?

GOROU-SAN, DO YOU RE-MEMBER ME?

...

I'M MASAO, RITSUKO'S YOUNGER BROTHER. YOU USED TO TEACH ME THE GUITAR, REMEMBER...?

THE THREE OF US ATE BUTTER RICE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.

!?

SFX: DONNNG

MY SISTER WENT TO LIVE WITH THE PERSON WHOM MY PARENTS ARRANGED FOR HER TO MARRY, BUT SHE CHANGED HER MIND AND CAME BACK. BUT BY THEN, YOU'D ALREADY LEFT HAKODATE...

SO THERE REALLY IS A "HAKODATE WOMAN", EH, GOROU-SAN?

SHE'S GONE THROUGH A LOT, BUT NOW SHE RUNS A KARAOKE SNACK BAR IN MATSUKAZE-CHOU*. SHE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE SINGLE RIGHT NOW.

...

T/N: MATSUKAZE-CHOU, A NEIGHBORHOOD IN HAKODATE; ALSO REFERENCED IN "HAKODATE NO HITO".

BUTTER RICE!

SPRING ARRIVED... AND GOROU-SAN RETURNED TO HAKODATE AFTER HAVING LISTENED TO TOYAMA-SAN. I HEAR HE'S NOW HELPING OUT AT TOYAMA-SAN'S SISTER'S SHOP.

THAT ASIDE, I GUESS THERE ARE FOOD CRITICS LIKE THIS GUY, HUH...?

MMM!